

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-24 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Claim 8 has been previously cancelled. Claim 2 has now been cancelled. Claims 14-24 have been previously withdrawn and rejoinder of claims 14-24 has been requested.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1, 3-7, and 9-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that the feature that the first layer A has a porosity of below 20% by volume is critical or essential to the practice of the invention, but not included in claim 1.

The feature that the first layer A has a porosity of below 20% by volume according to previous claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 2 has been cancelled. Since claim 2 is allowed as indicated in item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable. Since all of the

dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic and/or clarificatory reasons. The changes are neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor do they narrow the scope of the claims for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-7, and 9-13 are solicited. Rejoinder of claims 14-24 is requested because they are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to

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Respectfully submitted,

Yonghong Chen
Reg. No. 56,150

Yonghong Chen
For Applicant

YC

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101